

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 000127
ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/IR/REG:MWHUMPHREYS
APPROVED BY ACDA/IR:LSLOSS
-----031900Z 058130 /41

O 031832Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 000127

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: COUNTING RULES DISCUSSIONS WITH EAST

REF: A. STATE 262801 (DTG 230001Z OCT 76)
B. STATE 248443 (DTG 61711Z OCT 76)
C. STATE 235251 (DTG 222,31Z OCT 76)

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT OF MBFR VIENNA 533 (DTG 291600Z OCT 76).

1. THIS MESSAGE RESPONDS TO WASHINGTON REQUEST FOR DELEGATION VIEWS ABOUT THE INITIAL PHASES OF A COUNTING RULES DISCUSSION WITH THE EAST (REF A).
2. REFS (B) AND (C) SET FORTH THE BASIC GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION OF COUNTING RULES. IN DELEGATION'S VIEW, THIS WASHINGTON GUIDANCE IS PERTINENT AND COMPREHENSIVE AND WILL COVER MOST GENERAL CONTINGENCIES WHICH CAN NOW BE VISUALIZED. TO ATTEMPT TO DECIDE NOW ON A PRECISE LIST OR SEQUENCE OF ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS WOULD NOT APPEAR USEFUL, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF ANY CLEAR INDICATION OF THE EASTERN POSTURE, INCLUDING INITIAL EASTERN RESPONSES
SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 000127

TO THE QUESTIONS WHICH THE WEST HAS ALREADY TABLED.

3. A DISCUSSION OF COUNTING RULES WITH THE EAST ALONG THE LINES ENVISAGED IN WASHINGTON GUIDANCE SHOULD BEGIN WITH THE FACT THAT THE FIVE QUESTIONS ON INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS WHICH WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES PUT TO THE EAST IN THE INFORMAL SESSION OF JUNE 2#, 1976 ARE STILL ON THE TABLE UNANSWERED (SEE MBFR VIENNA A-097 DATED JULY 6, 1976). THE BASIC RATIONALE UNDERLYING THESE QUESTIONS,

DISCUSSED MORE FULLY BELOW, DIRECTLY REFLECTS THE OBJECTIVE STATED IN REF (B), PARA 6, NAMELY, QUOTE TO GAIN A DETAILED UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPECIFIC MANPOWER CATEGORIES THE EAST HAS INCLUDED IN, AND EXCLUDED FROM EASTERN DATA. END QUOTE. EACH QUESTION WAS DESIGNED TO ELICIT, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, A SPECIFIC ANSWER FROM THE EAST CONCERNING INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS, TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE EAST TO PROVIDE A BLANKET RESPONSE SO GENERAL AS TO BE UNINFORMATIVE, AND TO OPEN RELATED LINES OF DISCUSSION. THE WESTERN QUESTIONS WERE ALSO DESIGNED TO AVOID AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONFRONTATION ON FIGURES AS SUCH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DISCUSSION OF COUNTING RULES SINCE THIS COULD INHIBIT EASTERN RESPONSES.

4. WE ENVISAGE FOCUSING ON THESE QUESTIONS AT THE OUTSET. ONCE THE ALLIES HAVE TABLED UPDATED FIGURES, THE EAST WILL OWE US A RESPONSE TO THEM. THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE COUNTING RULES DISCUSSION WILL DEPEND TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT ON THE WAY IN WHICH THE EAST ANSWERS THESE QUESTIONS.

5. WHILE WE MUST WAIT FOR THESE FIRST EASTERN REACTIONS BEFORE REACHING DECISIONS ON FURTHER TACTICS, THE DELEGATION HAS FORMULATED SOME POTENTIAL FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS AND APPROACHES DESCRIBED BELOW. WE VIEW THESE AS BEING PURELY ILLUSTRATIVE TO ASSIST IN INTERNAL PLANNING.

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 000127

6. REGARDING POSSIBLE EASTERN QUESTIONS ABOUT WESTERN DATA, THE MOST LIKELY TOPIC WILL BE THE EXCLUSION OF FRENCH FORCES FROM THE DATA. WE ASSUME THAT AN AGREED EXPLANATION FOR THE ABSENCE OF FRENCH FORCES FROM WESTERN DATA ALONG THE LINES THAT THE FRENCH ARE NOT PARTICIPANTS IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE DEVELOPED IN THE AD HOC GROUP IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN PREVIOUSLY AGREED AMONG THE ALLIES.

7. AS REGARDS OTHER POSSIBLE EASTERN QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW WESTERN DATA, WE WILL RESTATE WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE TOLD THE EAST ABOUT THE WESTERN COUNTING RULES, NAMELY, THAT WE HAVE COUNTED ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL AND WOULD ACCOMPANY THIS STATEMENT WITH A REITERATION OF THE COUNTING RULES THE WEST HAS FOLLOWED REGARDING INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS.

8. SOME ALLIED CONCERN HAS BEEN RAISED OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF EASTERN QUESTIONS AIMED AT THE METHOD USED BY WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO COMPUTE THEIR FORCE TOTALS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR GUIDANCE IN REF (B), HOWEVER, WE WOULD SIMPLY STATE THAT OUR FIGURES REPRESENT ACTUAL AND NOT AUTHORIZED STRENGTH LEVELS. WE DO NOT EXPECT THE EAST TO PURSUE THE ISSUE BEYOND THAT, SINCE THE DIFFICULTIES OF

FINDING UNIFORM, PRECISE METHODS FOR CALCULATING ACTUAL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY MANPOWER TOTALS AS OF A SPECIFIED DATE ARE NOT UNIQUE TO WESTERN FORCES.

9. IF THE EAST'S ANSWERS TO OUR FIVE BASIC QUESTIONS DO NOT PROVIDE A CLEAR PICTURE OF EASTERN COUNTING RULES, WE MIGHT AT SOME LATER STAGE ASK THE EAST DIRECTLY TO GIVE THE WEST A FULL DESCRIPTION OF ITS OWN COUNTING RULES. BUT WE HOPE TO AVOID A SITUATION OR LEADING INTO A SITUATION WHERE THE EAST MERELY MAKES A FLAT CLAIM THAT IT HAS COUNTED ALL ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL AND STANDS ON SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 000127

THAT POSITION.

10. OF COURSE, IF THIS DOES OCCUR, WE WILL HAVE TO TRY TO GO BEHIND THIS STATEMENT. IN SUCH A SITUATION, FOR EXAMPLE, WE COULD CONSIDER ASKING THE EAST SUCH QUESTIONS AS WHETHER IT HAS INCLUDED IN ITS FIGURES THE ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO ADMINISTER POLISH TERRITORIAL FORCES. OR WE MIGHT CONSIDER DRAWING FROM THE LISTINGS OF INDIVIDUAL EASTERN FORCE COMPONENTS EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAVE GIVEN IN INFORMAL SESSIONS (MARCH 12, 19 AND 30), AND ASKING THE EAST WHETHER ALL PERSONNEL IN EACH OF THESE INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS HAS BEEN INCLUDED AS WELL AS THOSE DESCRIBED IN THE ORIGINAL FIVE WESTERN QUESTIONS.

11. THE QUESTIONS WESTERN REPS POSED TO EAST ON JUNE 29 WERE AS FOLLOWS: (1) WHETHER EASTERN DATA INCLUDED ANY MILITARY PERSONNEL NOT SERVING IN THE CATEGORIES OF COMBAT, COMBAT SUPPORT, AND COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT WHICH THE EAST HAD SPECIFIED IN THE MARCH 19 INFORMAL; (2) WHETHER THE EAST HAD INCLUDED IN ITS FIGURES ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE OTHER TYPES OF UNITS AND FORMATIONS, OTHER THAN COMBAT, COMBAT SUPPORT, AND COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT, WHICH THE EAST HAD LISTED IN INFORMAL SESSION ON MARCH 12, 19 AND 30; (3) WHETHER THE EAST HAD ALSO INCLUDED IN THOSE FIGURES ALL EASTERN MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO WORKED IN MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE, MAJOR HEADQUARTERS AND CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENTS, MILITARY SCHOOLS, ACADEMIES, TRAINING UNITS AND INSTALLATIONS AND MILITARY DISTRICT STATIONS; (4) WHICH ORGANIZATIONS THE EAST HAD EXCLUDED FROM THOSE TOTALS ON THE BASIS THAT THEY BELONGED TO OTHER

MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS; AND (5) WHETHER PERSONNEL EXCLUDED UNDER THIS PARTICULAR CRITERION INCLUDED ANY WARSAW PACT MILITARY PERSONNEL.

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 000127

12. THESE QUESTIONS WERE DRAFTED TO AVOID AS POSSIBLE: (1) GENERAL QUESTIONS THAT DID NOT REQUIRE A RESPONSE; (2) QUESTIONS WHOSE ANSWERS WE BELIEVED WE ALREADY KNEW, (3) QUESTIONS WHOSE ANSWERS THE EAST MIGHT DIVULGE WITHOUT BEING ASKED; (4) A FLAT RESPONSE LIMITED TO THE STATEMENT THAT THE EAST IS USING THE SAME COUNTING RULES AS THE WEST.

13. THE QUESTIONS THEMSELVES DRAW LARGELY ON INFORMATION THAT EASTERN REPS THEMSELVES PROVIDED ON THE COMPONENT ELEMENTS OF WARSAW PACT FORCES--IN PARTICULAR THE CATEGORIES THAT MADE UP PACT ARMED FORCES, AND THE VARIOUS TYPES OF UNITS THAT MADE UP THE CATEGORIES.

14. AS REGARDS POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS TO THE ORIGINAL FIVE QUESTIONS, THE FOLLOWING ARE POSSIBLE SAMPLES: IF THE EAST GIVES A NEGATIVE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE EAST HAS INCLUDED IN ITS FIGURES ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE OTHER TYPES OF UNITS AND FORMATIONS OTHER THAN COMBAT, COMBAT SUPPORT, AND COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT, WE COULD ASK: (A) WHICH PERSONNEL--IN WHICH TYPES OF UNITS AND FUNCTIONS--HAVE YOU INCLUDED? WHICH HAVE YOU EXCLUDED? (B) HAVE YOU EXCLUDED ALL PERSONNEL IN CERTAIN SPECIFIED TYPES OF UNITS AND COMMANDS NOT ENCOMPASSED UNDER YOUR CRITERIA OF COMBAT, COMBAT SUPPORT, AND COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT?

15. THERE IS A FURTHER POSSIBILITY TO WHICH WE CAN GIVE CONSIDERATION IF THE EAST RESPONDS THAT IT HAS INCLUDED ALL ACTIVE DUTY WARSAW PACT SERVICEMEN IN THE AREA IN ITS FIGURES, AND SEEKS TO STAND ON THAT ASSERTION. THIS WOULD BE TO ASK EASTERN REPS, IN INFORMAL SESSIONS, OR BILATERALLY, AS MORE APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE, WHY, ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS, EASTERN REPS HAVE RAISED CERTAIN ISSUES WITH THE OBVIOUS INTENT OF DIMINISHING A DISPARITY WHICH THEY THEN APPARENTLY PERCEIVED TO EXIST.

SECRET

PAGE 06 STATE 000127

16. THE POINTS RAISED BY THE EAST FOR THIS APPARENT PURPOSE ON WHICH WE MIGHT CONSIDER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS HAVE INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

(1) THE EARLY CLAIM THAT FRENCH FORCES (60,000) WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE WESTERN TOTAL, WHICH WAS THEREFORE PRESUMABLY TOO LOW BY THIS AMOUNT.

(2) THE IMPLICATION THAT PERSONNEL LIABLE TO FRG STANDBY READINESS SERVICE (30-120,000) BELONGED TO ACTIVE DUTY FORCES AND SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE WESTERN GROUND FORCE TOTAL.

(3) THE EFFORT TO REDUCE THE GROUND FORCE DISPARITY THROUGH REALLOCATION OF DISPUTED PERSONNEL (ABOUT 25,000) FROM GROUND TO AIR IN A SITUATION WHERE THE WEST SOUGHT TO ELIMINATE ONLY THE GROUND FORCE DISPARITY.

(4) THE ASSIDUOUS EASTERN EFFORT TO EXCLUDE FROM A FORCE DEFINITION WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER PERFORMING FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY CIVILIANS IN THE WEST (IMPLIED BY THE EAST BILATERALLY TO BE IN THE RANGE OF 80-100,000).

(5) THE EASTERN ARGUMENT ADVANCED BILATERALLY FROM TIME TO TIME DURING THE TALKS, THAT EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS WOULD RESULT IN SOME ASYMMETRY OF MANPOWER REDUCTIONS, WITH THE EAST REDUCING MORE MEN, THOUGH NOT AS MUCH MORE AS THE WEST WAS ASKING FOR. RESOR.

KISSINGER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE000127
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ACDA/IR/REG:MWHUMPHREYS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770002-0186
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770193/baaaeuzx.tel
Line Count: 236
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e89584de-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 262801 (DTG 230001Z OCT 76) B. STATE 248443 (DTG 61711Z OCT 76) C. STATE 235251 (DTG 222,31Z OCT 76)
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3681299
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: COUNTING RULES DISCUSSIONS WITH EAST
TAGS: PARM, XG, XH, NATO, MBFR
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e89584de-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009